SUBJECTS.

carry unclaimed dead bodies to the hospital and the burial ground.

Dewan's reply.—If specific instances of oppression are brought to the notice of the Superintendent of Police, he will enquire into them.

27. Election of non-official members of the Legislative Council.

Mr. M. K. Narayana Pillai also spoke on the present condition of the Legislative Council and said that, when the subject of the election of non-official members by the Popular Assembly was brought forward last year, the answer given was that the matter would be considered when rules were framed under section 5 of the Legislative Council Regulation. He observed that, if election by the Assembly was not acceptable, there were some organised representative institutions in the country and that it would not be a bad idea at all, if those organisations were asked to elect members to the Council.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestions of the member are noted.

28. Assessment of court-fees on suits about immovable property and of stamp-duty on partition deeds.

Mr. G. Sankaranarayana Iyer (Member, Shencottah Taluk) represented that the court-fees on suits relating to immovable property and the stamp duty on partition deeds should be calculated on the tax payable on the properties concerned and not on their values. Court-fees on suits for declaration of title to immovable property were being assessed on the value of the property, instead of at certain multiples of the assessment thereon as in British India. The latter, he said, would be more favourable to the litigant public than the present practice. He referred to the difficulty that, as soon as a suit was lodged, the defendant put forward a plea that the property was undervalued, whereupon a commission would be appointed and that meant expense. In regard to partition deeds, he said that they did not create any new rights and it would be well if the law be amended to admit of their being assessed at so many times the tax.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to court-fees, I have already said that a Bill to amend the existing Regulation is before the Legislative Council and I believe there is a provision in it to meet some of the difficulties mentioned by the member.

In regard to stamps, Government are not prepared to alter the stamp law in the direction indicated, as that may cause a large loss of revenue.

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